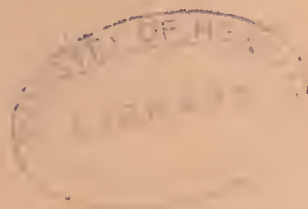


Eastry Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

• 1951 •

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1951

Chairman of the Council:

C.R. SMITH, J.P.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

A.H. HOLNESS.

Representatives on the East Kent United Districts (M.O.H) Committee:

A.H. HOLNESS.

A.E. MARKWICK.

Clerk to the Council:

CHAS. EVANS, M.B.E.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W.H. SAYERS, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B.,
Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Food Inspection,
Cert. R.S.I. Smoke Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

T. WHITE, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B.

Medical Officer of Health:

T.J. NICHOLL, F.R.C.S., D.P.H. Retired 30/6/51.
M.S. HARVEY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. From 1/7/51.



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Annual Report presented to the Chairman and Members
of Easry Rural District Council

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Mr. Chairman,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on Public Health matters concerning your district for the year 1951. During the year you completed the arrangements to form a new union of districts for the purpose of the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health and as from 1st November, 1951, the East Kent United Districts (M.O.H) Order was enforced. This broke a long association with Dover Rural District but renewed an old association with the Bridge district now part of the Bridge Blean Rural District which with Whitstable, Canterbury and Sandwich are your partners in the union.

My predecessor in this office is a man of long and wide experience whose steadfastness was expressed in doing the right thing and not the popular thing. The task of taking his place is not approached lightly.

The elders of our public health fraternity look back on days of battle whose fruits of victory are shown in the present absence of infectious diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid and smallpox. Such enemies are still ready to assail us if we relax our defences or our vigilance.

Attention to environmental hygiene, clean food handling and clean food production, control of the spread of infectious disease, diphtheria immunisation and vaccination against smallpox, early recognition and treatment of disease, especially of Tuberculosis, these are some of our best weapons. We should be letting down our predecessors if we were to allow them to rust or their edge to be blunted by side issues or to let up in the fight for health. The price of public health is constant vigilance.

Your obedient Servant,

Malcolm S. HARVEY.

Social Circumstances of the District:

The Rural District presents a variety of social and environmental factors.

In the north the area of the Isle of Thanet running south to Minster is influenced by population contacts with Margate and Ramsgate, and through them with London. The highroad with its stream of charabancs is a constant reminder of this.

The marshes and lower lands round Preston, Ash and Sandwich form a middle belt of agricultural communities which have population contacts with Canterbury.

The Southern part of the district which retains its agricultural nature is influenced by the islands of coal getting communities and the growing urban locality of Aylesham, which provide population contacts with Deal and Dover.

Statistical Details:

Area: (Including inland water) 54,276 acres.

Population:

Mid 1951 - 23,200 (Registrar General's Estimate)
Census 1931 - 22,050
Census 1951 - 22,788 % Males - 53.2%

Population increase since 1931 - 3.3%

Population Age Grouping:-

0 - 4	-	2,019
5 - 14	-	3,512
Over 15	-	17,669

Housing:

Number of Rateable Dwellings at 31/12/51 - 6893

Rateable Value of the District 31/3/51 - £106,983

" " " " " 31/3/52 - £106,797

Product of ld. Rate 1951 - £425 - 3 - 6d.

Statistical Details (Contd)

Births:

Total	352	Male:	Female:
	In Marriage.	177	161
	Outside Marriage.	9	5
Stillbirths	6 (None outside Marriage)	3	3
Crude Birth Rate	-	15.17 per 1000 population.	
Corrected Birth Rate	-	18.05 per 1000 population (Comparability Factor 1.19)	
Birth Rate England and Wales	-	15.5 per 1000 population.	

The population has grown in the last twenty years much more slowly than that of urban areas e.g. Canterbury 10.6%, Whitstable 28.8%, Sandwich 12.3%, and the excess of males over females noted in 1931 remains constant.

The birth rate appears to be lower than that for the rest of the country, but by applying the Registrar General's comparability factor which allows for the non-reproductive elements in the population we see that the district has quite a high birth rate compared to England and Wales.

Statistical Details (Contd)

Deaths:

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age - Total 4.
(All born within Marriage)

Number of those dying under 4 weeks of age - 2.

Equivalent to an Infant Mortality
(Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births) 11.4

Infant Mortality, England and Wales 29.6

All Deaths:

Total - 244. Male 135. Female 109.

Crude Death Rate - 10.5 per 1000 population.

Corrected Death Rate - 9.98 per 1000 population
(Comparability Factor 0.95)

Death Rate England and Wales - 12.5 per 1000 population.

Causes of Death:

Infants under 1 year:-

Prematurity 1 - age 10 hours.

Atelectasis, Prematurity
and Cerebral Damage 1 - age 3 days.

Collapse of Lung with
Congestive Heart Failure 1 - age 7 months.

Rt. Lobar Pneumonia 1 - age 2 months.

All Deaths: Listed according to International short clarification:

		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.		5	2	7
Syphilis, Diphtheria, Whooping		-	-	-
Cough, Meningococcal Infections,		-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis, Measles.		-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases		1	-	1
Group	Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach.	5	-	5
Total: 37	Malignant Neoplasm. Lung & bronchus	3	-	3
Male: 25	Malignant Neoplasm. Breast.	-	3	3
Female: 12	Malignant Neoplasm. Uterus.	-	3	3
	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm.	17	6	23
Leukaemia and aleukaemia		1	-	1
Diabetis		2	1	3
Group	Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	16	18	34
Total: 118	Coronary Disease, Angina.	7	8	15
Male: 52	Hypertension with Heart Disease.	3	1	4
Female: 66	Other Heart Diseases.	25	32	57
	Other Circulatory Diseases.	1	7	8
Group	Influenza.	3	2	5
Total: 42	Pneumonia.	5	4	9
Male: 26	Bronchitis.	17	10	27
Female: 16	Other Diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea.		1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis		-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate.		1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.		-	-	-
Congenital Malformations.		1	-	1
Other defined & ill defined diseases.		12	10	22
Motor Accidents.		1	-	1
Other Accidents.		5	-	5
Suicide.		-	1	1
		135	109	244

Comment: It will be seen that the death rate for the district is low both on crude figures and after application of the comparability factor. Just under half of the deaths are due to cardiac, vascular and circulatory diseases. No deaths were recorded from conditions associated with childbirth or with infectious diseases other than scarlet fever. 70% of the deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age. As one would expect, January and February were the months showing the highest number of deaths, due to a greater number of deaths in those over 65.

Ages of Death:

Sex:	0 - 1	1 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 45	45 - 65	65 - 80	80-90	90-	Total
Male	2	5	1	10	27	70	17	2	134 ⁺
Female	2	-	2	2	21	43	36	6	112 ⁺
TOTAL	4	5	3	12	48	113	53	8	246 ⁺

⁺ These figures approximate to but do not correspond with the fully corrected Registrar General's figure of 135 male and 109 female deaths.

Incidence of Infectious Disease:

Measles was the most prevalent infectious disease during the year and had a higher incidence than in any other of the previous five years.

Total cases of Measles notified:-

1951 - 435	1948 - 101
1950 - 89	1947 - 113
1949 - 159	1946 - 228

In the early part of the year the disease was prevalent in the low lying areas along the Stour, in Ash and in Eastry. The incidence subsided during the summer months but flared up again in the Autumn in the Aylesham area.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the first three months of the year but happily subsided.

The total number of cases of notifiable disease notified was as follows:-

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1951

Disease	AGE PERIODS											Total.	Ad. Hosp.	Deaths.
	0	1	2	3	4	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 -	45 -	65 +			
Whooping Cough	8	7	11	15	18	49	3	-	-	-	-	111	-	-
Measles	10	39	40	46	70	182	21	3	3	1	-	435	9	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	2	2	2	10	3	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	8	4	-
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	2	-

In the case of tuberculosis the following numbers of cases were notified:-

AGE.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Deaths.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 4	1	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 25	5	5	-	1	-	-
25 - 45	8	8	-	1	3	-
45 - 65	2	-	-	1	2	-
65 -	-	2	-	-	-	1
Total.	17	16	1	3	5	2

The diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis from the district is centred on Clinics for Diseases of the Chest in Canterbury, Ramsgate, Deal, Dover and Folkestone, under Chest Physicians centred on Canterbury, Thanet and Folkestone. County Health Visitors work from these clinics and this Authority takes an active interest in the patients environment and housing.

The diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases is centred on the following hospitals at special clinics for the purpose, Margate General Hospital, Kent & Canterbury Hospital and Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Disease:

Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate, and Tower Hamlets Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dover. Ambulance transport for the admission of cases of infectious disease is obtainable through the Ambulance Stations at Broadstairs, Dover, Deal or Canterbury, according to the part of the Rural District.

Laboratory Facilities for Infectious Disease Specimens:

Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone.

Disinfection:

Formalin spraying in the home, the use of sunlight, and concurrent disinfection are advocated where necessary. Terminal disinfection of rooms or bedding is necessary in some cases and where formalin is inappropriate arrangements can be made for steam disinfection of bedding and clothing. The Council have made arrangements with Thanet Hospital Management Committee for facilities at Haine Isolation Hospital and with Deal Borough for facilities at their disinfectors for such steam disinfection.

Prevention of Infectious Disease:

The County Medical Officer has supplied the following figures for Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diphtheria carried out in the district during 1951:-

TABLE I.

Vaccination against Smallpox:

Age at 31st December, 1951	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total:
Number Vaccinated	113	79	21	32	245
Number Re-vaccinated	-	3	9	41	53

Diphtheria Immunisation:

TABLE II

Children immunised against Diphtheria during 1951 shown according to year of birth.

Year of Birth:	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Primary Inoculations	21	184	28	4	4	10	2	-	-	-	1	1	8	4	21	288
Reinforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	5	50	16	5	1	1	1	5	53	84	113	334

TABLE III

Number of children born in the years shown who have at any time completed a course of Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Year of Birth:	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
	210	225	311	316	225	267	249	426	345	306	349	236	182	206	21	3874

General Matters:

During the year schemes for sewerage were advanced for Eastry, Wingham, the New Street area of Ash, Sholden and Worth and that for Goodnestone reached an advanced stage.

The Council paid particular attention to camping sites in Sandwich Bay and Minster. Such sites if small and well managed with adequate provision of water supply, sanitation and facilities for good hygienic practice, and so placed that they do not cover a landscape or sky line or overwhelm housing sites, are innocuous. But one hopes that their number will be kept to a moderate level.

In June powers were given for the prevention of noisy touting and hawking, and nuisance from noisy animals. This was connected with complaints in new housing estates. The legislation could with great advantage be extended to cover motor bicycles, which appear to create an amount of noise in inverse proportion to the size of the machine or the social sense of the driver.

A number of circulars, acts and amendments dealt with Pet Shops (Pet Animals Act, 1951): Elderly and infirm persons in need of care and attention, powers to act urgently: A new general form for notification of infectious diseases: Dogs in Food Shops: The Prevention of Pollution in Rivers.

Work done under the Factories Act is shown in the following table:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises.	Number of		
	On Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	17	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	48	83	1
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-
Total	61	100	1

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars.	-----Number of Defects-----		
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred by H. M. Inspector.
Want of Cleanliness (S.I)	9	9	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):-			
(a) Insufficient	4	4	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	-
Other offences	-	-	-
Total	22	22	-

The Senior Sanitary Inspector supplies the following interesting report on his work during 1951:-

Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1951.

There have been no major legislative or other changes during the year which have to any significant extent affected the work of the Department. Housing, now the largest single duty of the rural sanitary officer, continues to present problems to which no satisfactory solutions are yet available, particularly as it is becoming increasingly evident that much house property now shows no profit to the owner and in fact, in many cases, a loss. While it is generally accepted that a review of rents in some form is urgently needed, it is doubtful whether this alone could do more than provide for normal maintenance. As shown by the Rural Housing Survey, a high proportion of cottages in addition to possessing defects arising from arrears of maintenance, fall far below the present day standard of fitness in many respects and could only be made fit by substantial works of improvement. The lack of applications for Improvement Grants suggests that many owners of such property are either unable or unwilling to meet even half the cost of the work required to reach the standard necessary to attract the grant, which in many cases would require the maximum of £600 and would be in addition to the cost of ordinary repair.

In the work of food hygiene, a point is reached when the maximum progress has been made which can be legally enforced, yet leaving much lacking that is still most desirable. Education of the food handler by various means has a degree of success, but there still remain many undesirable practices which will be changed only by the force of public opinion, i.e. the customer. Unlike Housing, the attainment of a satisfactory standard of food hygiene is not necessarily dependant upon expenditure of money, but basically upon a knowledge of elementary hygiene and the will to apply it. The influencing of public opinion on this subject in a rural area is slow and unspectacular, but it is hoped that the efforts being made through talks to Women's Institutes and other bodies in the villages will in time have a useful effect.

I would like to record my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee during the year and also the help and co-operation of the staff of the Department.

W. H. SAYERS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year complaints have been received on the following matters:-

<u>Housing Defects</u>	-	55
<u>Drainage</u>	-	18
<u>Water Supply</u>	-	2
<u>Overcrowding</u>	-	3
<u>Accumulations</u>	-	5
<u>Keeping of Animals</u>	-	5
<u>Vermin</u>	-	5
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	-	6
Total		<hr/> 99 <hr/>

INSPECTIONS.

In connection with the Housing Acts	...	...	877
In connection with the Public Health Acts	...	...	737
Drainage..	...	...	441
Water Supply...	...	...	107
Dairies...	...	...	75
Food Shops	...	...	322
Restaurants	...	...	101
Bakehouse	...	...	90
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	164
Factories	...	...	100
Hop Pickers' ..	...	...	43
Infectious Disease..	...	...	27
Verminous Premises..	...	...	46
Shops Acts	...	...	71
Moveable Dwellings..	...	...	113
Knackers' Yard	...	...	60
Miscellaneous	...	...	88
Total			<hr/> 3462 <hr/>

WATER SUPPLY.

The various parishes of the district are supplied by the East Kent District Water Company, the Margate Corporation Water Undertaking, Ramsgate Corporation Water Undertaking, Westgate and Birchington Water Company and the Deal and Walmer Joint Water Board. The supplies are drawn from deep wells in the chalk, the Margate Pumping Station being situated in the Parish of Wingham.

There has been no shortage of supply during the year and monthly samples taken from the various sources showed the water to be thoroughly satisfactory in quality.

Twenty-nine samples of well water were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory; eighteen were reported unfit for drinking and subsequent action resulted in thirty houses being provided with main supply.

The number of houses without a main supply is now being reduced to isolated properties situated a considerable distance from any main and incapable of connection at a reasonable expenditure. It should be noted however, that over two hundred houses draw water from external standpipes and it is hoped that it may be soon possible to have a piped supply taken into each house.

The following table shows the present position regarding supplies to dwelling houses in the district:-

Parish	No. of Dwelling Houses.	No. of houses with main supply direct to house.	No. of houses with main supply by standpipes.	No. of houses without main supply.
ACOL	69	62	6	1
ASH	778	697	34	48
AYLESHAM	927	927	Nil	Nil
EASTRY	492	471	19	3
EYTHORNE	516	506	10	Nil
GOODNESTONE	151	135	1	15
MINSTER	684	668	4	5
MONKTON	135	110	17	5
NONINGTON	202	185	7	8
NORTHBOURNE	273	261	Nil	12
PRESTON	204	172	22	10
RIPPLE	91	91	Nil	Nil
SARRE	41	37	4	Nil
SHOLDEN	158	145	11	6
STAPLE	149	137	2	10
STOURMOUTH	93	78	12	4
ST. NICHOLAS	205	180	14	10
SUTTON	222	207	9	5
TILMANSTONE	120	117	3	Nil
WINGHAM	420	390	22	6
WOODNESBORO'	320	274	29	13
WORTH	233	225	4	4
TOTAL	6483	6075	230	165

HOUSING.

During the year systematic inspection of houses has been commenced in accordance with the statutory obligation placed on the local authority by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, and it is aimed at inspecting every house recorded under the Housing Survey once in every five years. Following such inspections the present policy is to ask only for those repairs necessary to keep houses weathertight, reasonably habitable and prevent deterioration, and to take formal action under the Housing Acts only in the most serious cases.

The co-ordination of this work with the new housing programme is very desirable and during the year a most effective co-operation with the Housing Manager has been developed.

Occupants of older houses, let at low rents, are becoming increasingly intolerant of the lack of modern amenities, no doubt by reason of the inevitable contrast with new Council houses and in some cases the ability to pay higher rents. In this connection it may be noted that few cottages have been reconditioned during the year, and then usually for occupation by the owner and invariably at a cost of at least £500.

Total number of new houses erected during 1951:-

(a) By the Local Authority	104
(b) By private enterprise	12

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	119
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	877
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932.	78
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	90
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	113
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.	6

HOUSING STATISTICS (Contd)

2. Remedy of defects by informal action.

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	112
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(1) Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 :-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
---	---

(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(i) By owners	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	-

(2) Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 :-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
---	---

(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices:

(i) By owners	-
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	-

(3) Housing Act, 1936, Section 11 :-

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
---	---

(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished	2
--	---

(c) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given by the owners under Section 11	5
--	---

(d) Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and Undertakings cancelled	2
--	---

HOUSING STATISTICS (Contd)

The following table shows works of repair and improvement carried out during the year:-

Dampness.

Walls rendered externally	8
Walls rendered internally	13
Walls re-pointed	9
Walls - dampness treated by other means..	5

Roofs.

Roofs stripped and re-tiled or slated	10
Roofs repaired	21
Guttering and downpipes renewed or repaired ...	22

Chimneys.

Chimney stacks - flashings repaired or renewed	8
Chimney stacks - brickwork repaired or re-built	12

External Paving.

Paving to outbuildings provided	7
Paving repaired	3

Food Storage.

Ventilated foodstores constructed..	16
-------------------------------------	----

Floors.

Boarded floors repaired or renewed	22
Solid floors repaired or laid	29

Lighting and Ventilation.

Windows repaired or renewed..	51
-------------------------------	----

Sanitation.

Houses provided with main water supply...	30
Sinks provided	40
Pail closets converted to water closets..	58
Fixed baths provided	23
Drainage systems constructed	39
Drainage systems altered or repaired	16
Cesspools constructed ..	37
Septic tanks	16

HOUSING STATISTICS (Contd)

Miscellaneous.

Internal walls and ceilings repaired	...	49
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed...	...	19
Wash coppers repaired or renewed	... ..	10
Hot water systems installed	... ..	17

DRAINAGE.

The Sanitary Inspector's Department is responsible for the supervision of all drainage work, to new buildings as well as to existing properties. It has been found that this arrangement works well, both from the administrative as well as the practical aspect and ensures a uniformity of standards throughout the district.

It is regrettable to report the continued existence of unsatisfactory conditions arising from the lack of drainage, particularly in the villages of Eastry and Wingham. The number of cesspools is steadily increasing and thirty-seven were constructed during the past year. Every endeavour is made to persuade builders to construct septic tanks on suitable sites, as a cesspool is not a satisfactory means of disposal from a house possessing main water and all modern sanitary fittings.

The standard of drainage work is slowly improving but is still too often regarded as a job for a handyman, and in contrast it is a pleasure to see on occasions drainage laid by a craftsman who has taken a pride in his work.

No. of visits in connection with drainage work	-	441
No. of water tests	-	122
No. of mirror tests	-	69

FOOD HYGIENE.

Continued efforts have been made to implement the Food Byelaws and although generally successful, from time to time cases occur when one could wish they were framed in more specific terms. Although it might be difficult to substantiate the risk of food poisoning, the practice of placing unwrapped bread, cakes and biscuits on shop counters where customers may cough and sneeze over them, or even handle them, is most undesirable.

The fact that not one complaint has been received from the public relating to food might be a cause for satisfaction, if one did not realise that it is rather due to apathy or a lack of discrimination.

On the other hand it is pleasing to note the number of food traders who do appreciate the need and also the business value of maintaining hygienic conditions and are continually making improvements on their own initiative.

There are thirty-six restaurant kitchens in the district, varying from small tea shops to large factory canteens, and one hundred-and-one inspections were made. Particular attention has been paid to the canteens attached to the three collieries and as the result of negotiations extensive improvements were made in two cases.

MILK.

There are eighteen registered distributors and ten of these have dairy premises in the district. With the exception of a few gallons sold by one dairyman, all milk is delivered in bottles filled and sealed in a dairy. As new bottles are being obtained, the older type sealed with a cardboard disc is being replaced with narrow neck bottles sealed with an aluminium foil cap covering the rim.

The present trend is for the smaller dairymen to obtain their supplies already bottled from outside the district and return the empty bottles unwashed, so that they become little more than distributors for the large dairies.

MILK (Contd)

Sampling.

Tuberculin Tested	- 15	- All satisfactory.
Pasteurised	- 29	- Four failed Methylene Blue Test.
Undesignated	- 20	- One failed Methylene Blue Test.

A sample for Biological Examination is taken every six months from every source of milk sold in the area which is not pasteurised. Thirty samples were taken during the year and all were negative.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

The following licences were granted by the Eastry Rural District Council:-

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	- 7
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	- 7
Pasteurised (Dealers)	- 4
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	- 7
Sterilized Milk (Dealers)	- 2

ICE-CREAM.

During the year twenty-three additional premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream and the total on the register is now seventy. Of these, all except two sell pre-wrapped ice-cream and one dealer intermittently manufactures a small quantity employing a cold mix.

Ice-cream is now sold in almost every type of food shop, and where properly wrapped and kept away from possible contamination there can be little objection. An undesirable practice that has appeared however, is that of cutting up large wrapped blocks and the use for this purpose of unclean and unsterilized knives opens up serious possibilities of contamination. When premises are suitable for registration only for the sale of pre-wrapped ice-cream it is made clear that this means ice-cream in a pack that is handed to the customer exactly as received from the manufacturer.

ICE-CREAM(Contd)

Thirty-three samples were taken for bacteriological examination; this is less than the previous year as more shops now obtain supplies from a few large manufacturers.

Results of Samples.

Grade	I	...	...	...	...	25
Grade	II	...	...	...	...	6
Grade	III	...	...	...	...	1
Grade	IV	...	...	...	...	1

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The eighteen slaughterhouses in the district closed down during the War are still unused, apart from the occasional killing of an animal under licence from the Ministry of Food. Fifteen pigs were slaughtered and the carcasses inspected.

Extensions and improvements were made to a large sausage factory and in four butchers premises improved arrangements were made for the manufacture of sausages.

The following food was inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat.

Home killed beef	...	...	...	175 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Tripe...	...	...	...	114 lbs.

Canned Food.

Meat	...	...	...	150 lbs.
Milk	...	...	...	71 tins.
Fruit...	...	...	...	33 tins.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	101 tins.

Other Foods.

Cheese..	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Kippers	...	...	...	180
Fish cakes	...	...	...	500

KNACKERS YARD.

There is one Knackers Yard in the district, situated at Ashley in the Parish of Sutton. A number of structural improvements have been carried out during the year, including the concreting of yards and approach road, re-building of pens and removal of dilapidated outbuildings.

There has been continued difficulty in securing the regular removal of bones and manure, and to limit fly nuisance arrangements were made for these to be stored at a distance from dwelling-houses and sprayed frequently during hot weather. Special measures were also found to be necessary to ensure the proper colouring of all meat before leaving the yard.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are three licensed camping sites in the area - Smugglers Leap, Minster, Sutton Vale and Sandhills, Sholden. Each site has been fully used between April and October and conditions have been generally satisfactory.

A growing problem however, has been the increased use of moveable dwellings for permanent residence and eight individual dwellings were licensed during the year. In the majority of cases the use of this form of residence is due to the shortage of dwelling-houses and other economic factors and it appears that whatever views may be held on this development, for the time being at least it must be accepted as inevitable. Many of the larger caravans built expressly for living purposes are triumphs of ingenuity, and at first glance appear to meet all possible living requirements. More detailed examination however, reveals their limitations and suggests that for a family, at least, the use as a permanent home involves a risk of lowering standards which have built up over many years. The powers of control under the Public Health Act are very limited and it is suggested that when applications are considered greater use might be made of powers under Town Planning.

HOP PICKERS CAMPS.

Six camps were occupied during the season and excluding home pickers, the estimated number of persons engaged in hop picking was one hundred and fifty. The practice is for each camp to be visited at least two months before picking commences in order to allow ample time to carry out any structural work required. Conditions were generally satisfactory with the exception of one camp on which a special report was made with a view to future statutory action should there be no improvement in the coming season.

It is common to blame the pickers for the existence of bad conditions, but although this may be true of a small proportion, it is noticeable that the whole tone of a camp is usually set by the person in charge, and where huts are sound, closets kept clean, refuse bins provided and emptied daily, together with a reasonable degree of supervision, there is little cause for complaint.

First Aid arrangements are made in respect of each camp and no outbreaks of infectious disease occurred during the season.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Verminous conditions were found in thirteen houses and the following were successfully disinfested employing proprietary insecticides:-

Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	Five houses.
Fleas	...	...	...	...	Two houses.
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	Six houses.

Experiments were carried out in an area which had been infested with cockroaches for a number of years. As the result of this treatment was evolved and accepted by the owners which appears to be successful in clearing the infested houses.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year efforts were made to discover whether the work in this district over the past seven years had made any real progress in the ultimate aim of exterminating all rats, or whether control has merely kept pace with breeding. In assessing this, figures have limited value, particularly those of estimated kill which are now regarded with some scepticism, but the conclusions reached from study of records and information from numerous sources suggested that although rats are still as widespread, infestations are generally much smaller.

RODENT CONTROL (Contd).

In a rural area, the majority of infestations are in or associated with agricultural property, and to exceed the rate of breeding regular inspections and treatment of all types of property is absolutely essential. The local authority have a statutory obligation to inspect all properties, and however excellent the co-operation with other bodies may be, practical considerations make the separation of inspections and effective treatment virtually unworkable. Block control is particularly desirable with farms and fifty-eight such schemes were carried out during the year.

Two full time operators are employed and every farm in the area is surveyed at least once a year.

The sewers at Ash, Aylesham, Elvington and Minster were test baited and evidence of rat infestation was found.

Summary of Work for the Year 1951.

	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling houses</u>	<u>Agric. Property</u>	<u>Business Premises</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of properties inspected:					
(a) Following complaint:	2	126	114	45	287
(b) Survey:	2	184	344	40	570
No. of properties found to be infested:					
Major:	1	8	84	16	109
Minor:	3	173	114	33	427

